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VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION

DECEMBER 12, 2014

PATRICK HENRY BUILDING
EAST READING ROOM
1111 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23219

Commencing at 10:06 a.m.

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

J. Sargeant Reynolds, Jr., Chairman
D.G. Van Clief, Jr., Vice Chairman
Carol G. Dawson
Stran Trout
I. Clinton Miller

COMMISSION STAFF:

Bernard J. Hettel, Executive Secretary
Courtney C. Reid, Program Support Technician
Kimberly C. Mackey, Office Administrator
David S. Lermond, Deputy Executive Secretary/Fiscal
Officer

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY:

Sam Towell, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
Carrie Chenery, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and
Forestry

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Joshua Laws, Esq.

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1 MR. REYNOLDS: Good morning, everybody. I'd
2 like to call the Friday, December 12th Racing
3 Commission to order. The first order of business
4 is to approve the minutes from the October 15th,
5 2014 meeting. Has everybody had a chance to review
6 those?

7 MS. DAWSON: Yes, sir.

8 MR. REYNOLDS: Are there any comments?

9 NOTE: There was no response.

10 MR. REYNOLDS: Do I hear a motion for approval?

11 MS. DAWSON: So moved.

12 MR. REYNOLDS: Do I hear a second?

13 MR. VAN CLIEF: Second.

14 MR. REYNOLDS: All those in favor, say aye.

15 NOTE: The commissioners vote aye.

16 MR. REYNOLDS: The minutes are approved.

17 Now we'll move on to new business, and that is
18 the applications for renewal of ADW licenses for
19 2015. Bernie, I'm gonna let you take that part.

20 MR. HETTEL: Mr. Chairman, The Virginia Racing
21 Commission has received applications for renewal of
22 ADW licenses for 2015 from the following
23 organizations and companies; EZHorseplay, TVG,
24 XpressBet and TwinSpires. All of them had
25 completed applications on a timely basis, and they

1 all had the applicable fee. I seek approval -- a
2 motion to approve the licenses.

3 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay. What we'll do is go
4 through it one by one. We'll start with
5 EZHorseplay. I'll ask Mr. Laws to read a motion
6 that we will act upon.

7 MR. LAWS: Prior to that, Mr. Chairman, did you
8 want to give the parties an opportunity to make a
9 statement?

10 MR. REYNOLDS: We'll go down the line.
11 EZHorseplay?

12 MR. WEINBERG: Could we reserve the right to
13 make comments after the resolution?

14 MR. REYNOLDS: Absolutely.

15 MR. WEINBERG: Thank you.

16 MR. LAWS: All right. The motion on the floor
17 is as follows: 11 Virginia Administrative Code
18 10-45-20, Subsection A states, quote, No account
19 wagering license shall be granted by the Commission
20 unless the applicant meets the criteria specified
21 in Section 59.1-369 of the code of Virginia and
22 these regulations, end quote.

23 Section 59.1-369 of the code of Virginia
24 states, among other criteria, quote,
25 Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 59.1-392,

1 the allocation of revenue from advanced deposit
2 account wagering shall include (i) a license fee
3 paid to the Commission; (ii) an additional fee
4 equal to 10 percent of all wagers made within the
5 Commonwealth placed through an advance deposit
6 account wagering licensee, out of which shall be
7 paid: (a) one-half to all unlimited licensees and
8 (b) one-half to representatives of the recognized
9 majority horsemen's group, end quote.

10 I move that a license be granted to the
11 applicant for renewal of its ADW license upon a
12 demonstration by the applicant of full compliance
13 with Section 59.1-369 of the code of Virginia and
14 all other applicable laws and regulations by
15 January 1st, 2015.

16 Upon such demonstration which may be submitted
17 to the executive secretary of the Virginia Racing
18 Commission, we approve the applicant's ADW renewal
19 license application and grant a license until such
20 time as an unlimited licensee has been granted --
21 or strike that -- unlimited license has been
22 granted under Sections 59.1-375, 378 and 382 or the
23 license expires pursuant to 11 Virginia
24 Administrative Code 10-45-20B.

25 If the applicant has not demonstrated

1 compliance by January 1st, the executive secretary
2 shall be permitted to stay the expiration of any
3 license until such time as the VRC can conduct
4 further proceedings related to the conditions
5 described herein.

6 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay.

7 MR. TROUT: Just a couple questions, just to
8 make sure. What this basically does, is give the
9 executive secretary the authority to essentially
10 sign the contract he received sufficient data by
11 January 1st; but it also states, I believe in
12 there, that if there is an unlimited license
13 granted, I suppose at any point, would that
14 eliminate this agreement?

15 MR. LAWS: Going to your first question, Stran,
16 it gives the executive secretary power to receive
17 that demonstration of compliance; and to your
18 second question, if an unlimited license is granted
19 under the sections I read, it has to be at a
20 Commission meeting and the Commission can take up
21 the --

22 MR. TROUT: Take that up at the time?

23 MR. LAWS: Yeah. At the same meeting.

24 MR. TROUT: That makes sense.

25 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay. Hearing the motion, is

1 there any further discussion? Are there any other
2 questions from the commissioners?

3 NOTE: There is no response.

4 MR. REYNOLDS: We're going to read the same
5 motion for all four.

6 MR. MILLER: Are we going to defer voting on
7 this until we hear from the parties?

8 MR. WEINBERG: I wasn't going to make a
9 statement, having heard the resolution, unless you
10 would like me to.

11 MR. MILLER: Do all of the -- does EZHorseplay,
12 TVG, XpressBet, TwinSpires, do all of you
13 understand the resolution that was just read? I
14 mean were you able to follow it?

15 NOTE: There is a positive response.

16 MR. WEINBERG: I believe so.

17 MR. MILLER: Okay. So that everyone
18 understands what's in the --

19 MR. BLACKWELL: Excuse me. Brad Blackwell on
20 behalf of TwinSpires. I just wanted to confirm.
21 What is the position on the unlimited licensee
22 payment?

23 MR. LAWS: I'm sorry. What is that?

24 MR. BLACKWELL: What is the position on the
25 payment to the unlimited licensee?

1 MR. LAWS: The motion states that Section
2 59.1-369 of the code of Virginia, among other
3 criteria, quote, Notwithstanding the provisions of
4 Section 59.1-392, the allocation of revenue from
5 advance deposit account wagering shall include (i)
6 a licensee fee paid to the Commission, (ii) an
7 additional fee equal to 10 percent of all wagers
8 made within the Commonwealth placed through an
9 advanced deposit account wagering licensee, out of
10 which shall be paid: (a) one-half to all unlimited
11 licenses and (b) one-half to representatives of
12 the recognized majority horsemen's groups, end
13 quote.

14 MR. BLACKWELL: So when I hear that, the issue
15 that I'm questioning, is given that there is
16 currently not an unlimited licensee, what happens
17 with that five percent payment?

18 MR. LAWS: I think the Commission has sent
19 letters to all the parties directing them to comply
20 with what they think the law requires, and unless
21 the Commission has changed that position, that's
22 still in effect.

23 MR. MILLER: would you mind just reading slowly
24 through the resolution one more time, just so it's
25 clear? I'm trying to get it clear in my mind what

1 we're voting for.

2 MR. PETRAMALO: Skip the citations. I think it
3 would be helpful.

4 MR. LAWS: Do you want me to read the full
5 motion?

6 MR. MILLER: Yeah, if you would. If you
7 wouldn't mind.

8 MR. LAWS: Sure. 11 Virginia Administrative
9 Code 10-45-20A states, quote, no account wagering
10 license shall be granted by the Commission unless
11 the applicant meets the criteria specified in
12 Section 59.1-369 of the code of Virginia, and these
13 regulations, end quote.

14 Section 59.1-369 of the code of Virginia
15 states, among other criteria, quote,
16 Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 59.1-392,
17 the allocation of revenue from advanced deposit
18 account wagering shall include a licensee fee paid
19 to the Commission, an additional fee equal to 10
20 percent of all wagers made within the Commonwealth
21 placed through an advanced deposit account wagering
22 licensee, out of which shall be paid one-half to
23 all unlimited licensees and one-half to
24 representatives.

25 MR. MILLER: If I can interrupt you. That says

1 unlimited licensees, plural, correct?

2 MR. LAWS: Correct.

3 MR. MILLER: Okay.

4 MR. LAWS: And one-half to representatives of
5 the recognized majority horsemen's groups, end
6 quote.

7 I move that a license be granted to any
8 applicant for renewal of its ADW license upon a
9 demonstration by applicant of full compliance with
10 section 59.1-369 of the code of Virginia and all
11 other applicable laws and regulations by
12 January 1st, 2015.

13 Upon such demonstration, which may be submitted
14 to the executive secretary of the Virginia Racing
15 Commission, we approve the applicant's ADW renewal
16 license application and grant a license until such
17 time as an unlimited licensee has been granted
18 under sections 59.1-375, 378 and 382 or the license
19 expires pursuant to 11VAC10-45-20B.

20 If the applicants have not demonstrated
21 compliance by January 1st, the executive secretary
22 shall be permitted to stay the expiration of any
23 license until such time as the VRC can conduct
24 further proceedings related to the conditions
25 described herein.

1 MR. MILLER: Okay. Thank you.

2 MR. REYNOLDS: All right.

3 MR. TROUT: If I could ask just a couple more
4 things. Is this so much of a staying the execution
5 of the license or the beginning of a license? Are
6 we assuming right now that there is or is not a
7 license to do the EZHorseplay?

8 MR. LAWS: I think all four applicants
9 currently have a license that expires at the end of
10 the year.

11 MR. TROUT: So this is really talking about the
12 extension of that license or the creation of a new
13 --

14 MR. LAWS: It's a renewal and creation.

15 MR. TROUT: If everything is complied with, is
16 basically what that is saying?

17 MR. LAWS: Correct.

18 MR. TROUT: As I recall in there, somewhere, it
19 talked about unlimited licensee, which there is
20 none at this point. It talked about some funds
21 going to them. Are those funds covered? Is where
22 they are going to go covered in that motion or
23 covered in other activities that we have done?

24 MR. LAWS: Yes. In the October 31st letters
25 that were sent to the parties.

1 MR. TROUT: Okay.

2 MR. REYNOLDS: Are there any other questions
3 from the commissioners?

4 NOTE: There is no response.

5 MR. REYNOLDS: Hearing none, do I hear a
6 motion to --

7 MR. PETRAMALO: Can I ask a question? Problem
8 is, when I start talking, you know how dumb I am.

9 MR. REYNOLDS: Well.

10 MR. TROUT: How smart you are.

11 MR. PETRAMALO: It's my understanding that what
12 you're proposing to do is make the 2015 licenses
13 conditional upon the currently licensed ADWs
14 continuing to pay both horsemen's groups, the
15 Thoroughbred and the harness groups their share of
16 the five percent, and paying the five percent that
17 used to go to the unlimited licensee to the Racing
18 Commission to be held in escrow.

19 MR. LAWS: Yeah.

20 MR. PETRAMALO: And if they perform in that
21 fashion on January 1st, their licenses will be
22 renewed.

23 MR. LAWS: Yeah. The motion requires them to
24 comply with section 369, as the Commission stated
25 in its October 31st letter.

1 MR. PETRAMALO: Right. Okay. Now I
2 understand.

3 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay. I'd like to entertain a
4 motion seeking approval.

5 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman?

6 MR. REYNOLDS: Yes, sir.

7 MR. MILLER: I don't know. Probably should
8 have discussed the process for this a little
9 further, but I see two people standing back there
10 --

11 MR. REYNOLDS: Oh, I apologize.

12 MR. MILLER: -- and I assume they're standing
13 for a reason, so.

14 MR. REYNOLDS: Yeah. I didn't even see them.
15 I apologize.

16 MR. BLACKWELL: Brad Blackwell on behalf of
17 TwinSpires again. I'm still a little confused. It
18 sounds like what was just explained is that the
19 Commission's position is, according to this letter
20 that went out in October, asking that ADW licensees
21 pay a five percent fee to the Commission to be held
22 in escrow, and it is our position, as we have
23 explained in a letter, that given the fact that
24 there is no unlimited licensee at the time, a
25 payment cannot be made to an entity that does not

1 exist, so our position is that that revenue should
2 rightfully remain with the entity that's actually
3 generating revenue.

4 what I was hoping I understood was that the ADW
5 would be in compliance with the law when such
6 payment is not made, because that entity does not
7 exist to receive the payment and this issue will be
8 revisited if and when there is an unlimited
9 licensee.

10 MR. CHABRIER: Gene Chabrier on behalf of
11 XpressBet. I think Mr. Blackwell very eloquently
12 explained our position as well.

13 MR. LAWS: Thank you. Go ahead.

14 MR. VAN CLIEF: Okay. I'd like to speak to
15 that as well, and I can see where there is
16 confusion. We go to the letter of the motion that
17 Josh just read; it requires compliance with the
18 current statute.

19 The current statute requires relevant payment
20 to horsemen's groups, relevant payment to the VRC,
21 and relevant payment to the unlimited licensee,
22 which entity currently doesn't exist.

23 So in everybody's mind in the room, there's a
24 question as where we stand vis-a-vie that last five
25 percent or what used to be the unlimited licensee.

1 Seems to me you're in compliance, potentially
2 in compliance, once you've made the payments as
3 mentioned before to the horsemen and the
4 Commission.

5 MR. LAWS: Once the payments are made in
6 accordance with the October 31st letter.

7 MR. VAN CLIEF: There's a question as to
8 whether you are or are not in compliance, vis-a-vie
9 an unlimited licensee.

10 MR. LAWS: I think under the motion that a
11 party is in compliance as they follow the law as
12 described in the October 31st letter.

13 MR. PETRAMALO: That's contrary to the law --
14 that's not the same as what you were saying, D.G.
15 Two different things.

16 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman?

17 MR. REYNOLDS: Yes, sir.

18 MR. MILLER: what these folks are saying, as I
19 understand it, the representative for Churchill
20 Downs and XpressBet is that, you know, they are,
21 certainly, in their mind, they are willing to
22 comply. They'll pay the money to the -- or I may
23 be wrong.

24 They would pay the money to the horsemen's
25 group. They would pay that five percent, but what

1 they're saying is that they're in compliance if
2 they do that, because the other five percent
3 they're supposed to pay to the unlimited licensee
4 can't be paid because there is no payee in
5 existence for them to pay it to. Is that correct?

6 MR. BLACKWELL: You're correct, Mr.
7 Commissioner. And to say a little further, we do
8 not think that the October letter is reflective of
9 the law. It basically sets forth a position or
10 requests from the Commission.

11 we do not think that's reflective of the law,
12 so we think there's an inconsistency between what
13 the actual law requires and what the letter being
14 referenced requests.

15 MR. LAWS: Well, I was going to -- I don't want
16 to cut off the discussion. What I think currently
17 on the floor is EZHorseplay's renewal, and if they
18 don't have any questions or if they don't have any
19 further comments about their renewal, I think we
20 should vote, that the Commission should vote on
21 EZHorseplay's renewal and then move on and let
22 Churchill Downs speak on its own application.

23 MR. WEINBERG: To be clear, our opinion is the
24 same as expressed by the two gentlemen. What I
25 understood the motion to say is you were deferring

1 that debate to another day.

2 If the executive secretary says EZHorseplay,
3 for example, is not in compliance because it has
4 not made that five percent payment pursuant to the
5 October 31st letter, you will convene another
6 hearing to decide whether that's compliance or not
7 compliance, but until that day, it is renewed and
8 if --

9 MR. REYNOLDS: That's correct.

10 MR. WEINBERG: -- if we go back and decide we
11 are going to reconsider our position, we have the
12 opportunity to do that. If we continue to hold the
13 same position, we will be heard another day.

14 MR. REYNOLDS: That's well-stated.

15 MR. MILLER: Okay.

16 MR. VAN CLIEF: Do you want to relay that for
17 the gentlemen in the back?

18 MR. LAWS: Not unless they ask.

19 MR. VAN CLIEF: Okay.

20 MR. REYNOLDS: I don't want to turn this in to
21 --

22 MS. EASTER: This is just quick, just to get
23 everybody who spoke about the horsemen's share and
24 the Commission's share. I just don't want
25 everybody to forget about the Breeders Fund, the

1 one percent to the Breeders Fund, since it wasn't
2 mentioned.

3 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay.

4 MS. EASTER: Thank you.

5 MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you.

6 MR. LAWS: Is there a motion on the floor?

7 MR. VAN CLIEF: I'll make that motion.

8 MS. DAWSON: I'll second it.

9 MR. REYNOLDS: All those in favor, say aye.

10 NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

11 MR. REYNOLDS: Anybody opposed?

12 NOTE: There is no response.

13 MR. REYNOLDS: Hearing none, the motion
14 carries. The next one is TVG. I don't know if
15 they're here or not, but I think --

16 MR. HETTEL: They couldn't make it today. They
17 are stationed in California and they have had
18 communication with me and the staff. They intend
19 to be compliant as the previous motion was read.

20 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay. Would you like to read
21 that motion --

22 MR. LAWS: Sure.

23 MR. REYNOLDS: -- for the record?

24 MR. LAWS: Sure. 11 Virginia Administrative
25 Code 10-45-20A states, quote, no account wagering

1 license shall be granted by the Commission, unless
2 the applicant meets the criteria specified in
3 Section 59.1-369 of the code of Virginia and these
4 regulations, end quote.

5 Section 59.1-369 of the code of Virginia
6 states, among other criteria, quote,
7 Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 59.1-392
8 the allocation of revenue from advanced deposit
9 account wagering shall include a licensee fee paid
10 to the Commission, an additional fee equal to 10
11 percent of all wagers made within the Commonwealth
12 placed through an advance deposit account wagering
13 licensee, out of which shall be paid one-half to
14 all unlimited licensees, and one-half to
15 representatives of the recognized majority
16 horsemen's groups, end quote.

17 I move that a license be granted to any
18 applicant for renewal of its ADW license, upon a
19 demonstration by the applicant of full compliance
20 with Section 59.1-369 of the code of Virginia and
21 all other applicable laws and regulations by
22 January 1st, 2015.

23 Upon such demonstration, which may be submitted
24 to the executive secretary of the Virginia Racing
25 Commission, we approve the applicant's ADW renewal

1 license application and grant a license until such
2 time as an unlimited licensee has been granted
3 under Sections 59.1-375, 378 and 382, or the
4 license expires pursuant to 11 Virginia
5 Administrative Code 10-45-20B. If the applicants
6 have not demonstrated compliance by January 1st,
7 the executive secretary shall be permitted to stay
8 the expiration of any licenses until such time as
9 the VRC can conduct further proceedings related to
10 the conditions described herein.

11 MR. REYNOLDS: It's the same motion as the last
12 one, so unless there is any further discussion, I
13 will enter a motion to approve. Do I hear a motion
14 to approve?

15 MS. DAWSON: So moved.

16 MR. REYNOLDS: Do I hear a second?

17 MR. TROUT: Second.

18 MR. REYNOLDS: Hearing a motion and a second, I
19 call for a vote. All those in favor, say aye.

20 NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

21 MR. REYNOLDS: All those opposed?

22 NOTE: There is no response.

23 MR. REYNOLDS: Hearing none, the motion carries
24 and we will move on to XpressBet. Now I want you
25 all to talk, but you're welcome to get up and say

1 something, if you want, but --

2 MR. CHABRIER: Gene Chabrier from XpressBet. I
3 mean just to be perfectly clear.

4 MR. LAWS: Pause for one second.

5 NOTE: sirens sounding outside building.

6 MR. CHABRIER: Just to be perfectly clear,
7 XpressBet intends on paying the Commission fee and
8 the Breeders Fund and our payment to the horsemen
9 who are recognized in the state. It's XpressBet's
10 opinion that there is no unlimited licensee;
11 therefore, we intend to keep that money ourselves,
12 just to be plain and simple.

13 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay.

14 MR. CHABRIER: Once there is another unlimited
15 licensee granted, we will renew that payment at
16 that time.

17 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay. Thank you. Would you
18 like to read the motion?

19 MR. MILLER: Could I interrupt just a minute?

20 MR. REYNOLDS: Yes.

21 MR. MILLER: It's the same motion?

22 MR. LAWS: Yes.

23 MR. MILLER: Do we need to read that? Does
24 anyone require the reading of the motion again, or
25 can we just say in accordance with the previous

1 motion which will apply to this applicant?

2 MR. LAWS: I think that's acceptable.

3 MR. MILLER: Okay. So we can just go ahead and
4 vote?

5 MR. LAWS: Does the representative from
6 XpressBet have any objection to that?

7 MR. CHABRIER: No. None at all.

8 MR. LAWS: Thank you.

9 MR. REYNOLDS: Well, do I hear a motion to
10 approve the previously read motion?

11 MS. DAWSON: I so move.

12 MR. LAWS: As it relates to XpressBet?

13 MR. REYNOLDS: As it relates to XpressBet.

14 MR. VAN CLIEF: Second.

15 MR. REYNOLDS: Do I hear a second?

16 MS. DAWSON: Second.

17 MR. REYNOLDS: All those in favor, say aye.

18 NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

19 MR. REYNOLDS: All those opposed?

20 NOTE: There is no response.

21 MR. REYNOLDS: Hearing none, the motion
22 carries.

23 The last one is TwinSpires. Do you have
24 anything else you'd like to say?

25 MR. BLACKWELL: You know, first of all, I

1 appreciate being here. Again, it has been some
2 time, but I think we've explained our position
3 before. I think it has been consistent, and what I
4 understand is, and I've heard it now three times,
5 is that the motion does not include the Commission
6 letter, so we are fine with the motion.

7 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay.

8 MR. LAWS: The motion includes the Commission's
9 understanding of what 369 means, so we're clear.

10 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay. Do I hear a motion to
11 approve the renewal application for the previous
12 motion read by the Commission for TwinSpires?

13 MR. TROUT: So moved.

14 MR. REYNOLDS: Do I hear a second?

15 MS. DAWSON: Second.

16 MR. REYNOLDS: All those in favor, say aye.

17 NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

18 MR. REYNOLDS: All those opposed?

19 NOTE: There is no response.

20 MR. REYNOLDS: Hearing none, the motion
21 carries. All right. Thank you all very much.

22 I'm going to change and put commissioner
23 comments probably at the end of the meeting, if I
24 may do so. So that will take us to stakeholder
25 comments. Are there any stakeholder comments?

1 MR. STEWART: I'd like to say a couple things,
2 if I could.

3 MR. REYNOLDS: Yes, sir.

4 MR. STEWART: Good morning. With me today is
5 Stan Guidroz. He is the regional vice president of
6 Jacobs Entertainment, Incorporated. In January,
7 Stan will assume full responsibility for Colonial
8 Downs. I intend to transition into an advisory
9 role for Stan and for Mr. Jacobs, because at this
10 time, I really need to -- I really want to
11 concentrate on some other parts of my life.

12 MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you. Welcome, Stan. We
13 look forward to working with you.

14 MR. GUIDROZ: Thank you.

15 MR. REYNOLDS: Anything else?

16 MR. MILLER: Let me say this. Thank you, Ian,
17 for your past service and working with the
18 Commission. Although we've been at loggerheads on
19 some things over the years that I've been on the
20 Commission, we've been in agreement on a lot of
21 things, but I want to say you've always conducted
22 yourself in an honorable manner and it has been a
23 pleasure working with you as being the face of
24 Colonial Downs.

25 MR. STEWART: Thank you. I appreciate that.

1 MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you.

2 MR. HETTEL: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
3 recognize Frank Petramalo has some comments.

4 MR. PETRAMALO: I would yield to Ms. Easter.

5 MR. HETTEL: Okay. Very good.

6 MS. EASTER: As reported at the last meeting to
7 you, the stakeholders in this state have come
8 together, the VTA, the Harness Association, the
9 HBPA and the Gold Cup, to form a new alliance
10 called the Virginia Equine Alliance.

11 In light of what's happened at the last
12 meeting, we felt like we all need to get together
13 and push positive things forward so that we could
14 have racing, and whatever we could do to grow and
15 move the industry forward in this state.

16 So today, I would like to introduce our interim
17 executive director, Jeb Hannum, and he's going to
18 tell you a little bit about himself and just a
19 little bit about what the Equine Alliance has been
20 working on in the last 30 days or so since we last
21 met.

22 MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you. Welcome.

23 MR. HANNUM: Can I stand up, Mr. Chairman?

24 MR. REYNOLDS: That would be great. Thank you
25 very much, and welcome.

1 MR. HANNUM: Lots of people here. Thank you,
2 Commissioners. Thank you, Debbie. Just to
3 reiterate, the VEA is a nonprofit group that was
4 established to support and sustain new racing
5 venues for flat and harness racing. The VEA
6 represents the Thoroughbred and harness horsemen
7 and breeders, as well as the Virginia Gold Cup.

8 As Debbie mentioned, I'm serving as the interim
9 executive director, and Debbie is going to be
10 serving as the interim president.

11 Just a little bit of background. I grew up
12 with horses and have been involved with racing my
13 whole life.

14 More specifically to the activities here, I was
15 a former racing commissioner in Pennsylvania. I
16 was appointed by Governor Ed Rendell in 2008 and
17 served for a term in Pennsylvania, and then
18 subsequently took over running the Pennsylvania
19 Horse Breeders Association, which is amongst one of
20 the best breeding programs in the country.

21 So I moved to Virginia this past summer with my
22 family, and I look forward to working with all of
23 you in this industry which I love.

24 In serving in Pennsylvania, I'm very familiar
25 with the issues affecting Virginia, and also some

1 of the broader pressures that are affecting the
2 Mid-Atlantic region; racing pressures and breeding
3 pressures for the entire industry.

4 The VEA has developed a package of legislative
5 changes which we feel will help grow racing in
6 Virginia over the long-term, but equally important
7 to support horsemen and breeders in the short-term,
8 which we feel is critical.

9 There's an urgency to the situation, and we
10 need to send a signal to our horsemen and to our
11 breeders that action is being taken and that we
12 want to encourage investment to remain in the
13 state.

14 Today, we've made numerous site visits, we've
15 seen a number of promising facilities. We're in
16 discussion with the Virginia Gold Cup about hosting
17 additional flat racing next year. We're speaking
18 to other steeple chase sites, including Montpelier
19 about flat racing with pari-mutuel wagering.

20 Oak Ridge farm could be a potential harness
21 site for next year, as well as the Shenandoah
22 County fair, and we've toured a number of sites in
23 Spotsylvania County for both flat and harness
24 racing.

25 So it is also important to note that the

1 virginia Equine Alliance very much hopes there will
2 be racing at Colonial Downs next year for
3 Thoroughbreds and harness racing, but as we do not
4 know what their plans are, we feel it's important
5 to move quickly with alternative plans that will
6 benefit racing in the state going forward.

7 Just to reiterate the urgency of the matter, we
8 feel it is critical to keep harping on it that we
9 don't feel that there is time to waste; as we all
10 know that horsemen and breeders have many
11 alternatives in this region.

12 I look forward to working with the Racing
13 Commission, and I thank you very much for the
14 opportunity to introduce myself and speak about the
15 Alliance today. So thank you.

16 MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you. Anything else,
17 Debbie?

18 MS. EASTER: That's it.

19 MR. REYNOLDS: Frank?

20 MR. PETRAMALO: No.

21 MR. REYNOLDS: Nothing today?

22 MR. PETRAMALO: Nothing.

23 MR. REYNOLDS: With that, that's a great
24 Christmas present, Frank.

25 MR. PETRAMALO: Well, if the truth be told,

1 they stopped paying me, so I stopped talking.

2 MR. REYNOLDS: You know what I feel like.

3 Anyway, well, thank you.

4 Now I'd like to turn it over to public comment.

5 If you have a comment, please keep it to five
6 minutes or less, and if you make a comment, please
7 state your name for the record, please. I'd like
8 to open it up to the public for any comments.

9 Something's not right. No comments.

10 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, no comment. I just
11 want to ask a question of Debbie, please.

12 MR. REYNOLDS: Yes, sir.

13 MS. EASTER: Yes, sir.

14 MR. MILLER: There's a lot of public concern,
15 believe it or not, among people who really follow
16 Thoroughbred racing, and there are still a few of
17 those people in Virginia, especially in my part of
18 the state who are very concerned about what the
19 future does hold.

20 I would like to request, as I mentioned to you
21 in the lobby, that you put together at least a
22 synopsis of your, or executive summary of your
23 proposed legislative changes that you're working
24 on, and try to get it out for public consumption
25 just as soon as possible to lessen some of the

1 fears people have that perhaps Thoroughbred racing
2 is finished in Virginia.

3 MS. EASTER: Yes, sir.

4 MR. MILLER: That's -- a lot of people out
5 there feel like that, you know, we've reached the
6 end of the road, and I certainly do not think we
7 have. Mr. Haymore is an eternal optimist, and I
8 am, too, and I think that we'll be able to work our
9 way through all this.

10 MS. EASTER: We relish the opportunity, and
11 I've been in the horse business all my life, so
12 there is probably not more of an eternal optimist
13 in this room than I am.

14 But we really like that. We're real tickled.
15 As we spoke before, we spoke in the secretary's
16 office and with a couple of key legislators, and we
17 wanted to get their opinion, because we'd love to
18 have you all and the whole industry back in
19 something that can move things forward in Virginia,
20 so we'll get that out as soon as possible.

21 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

22 MS. EASTER: Yes, sir.

23 MR. REYNOLDS: Turn to commissioner comments.
24 Commissioner Trout.

25 MR. TROUT: Okay. I always have something.

1 MR. REYNOLDS: Absolutely.

2 MR. TROUT: People usually call on me early,
3 because that way, I don't have a lot of time to
4 think of a lot of stuff to say.

5 MR. REYNOLDS: Would you like me to call on you
6 last?

7 MR. TROUT: No. This is fine.

8 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay.

9 MR. TROUT: Going back to the 1980s, not going
10 to go through a whole trip of this, we formed a
11 committee in New Kent County to look into whether
12 horse racing was a good idea or not; we decided it
13 was. We tried to promote it. We got it passed in
14 a referendum. The referendum actually ran out
15 before the track opened. We had to do a second
16 referendum, which passed better than the first
17 referendum.

18 This is the first time in that period of time,
19 which is I'm not sure how many years, a lot of
20 years, that there has not been an immediate
21 prospect of horse racing in the county, and I would
22 call it a low point, except that today, the
23 positive attitude of Debbie Easter and of Jeb and
24 the others who are here show that horse racing is
25 in good hands in Virginia, and that it's not gonna

1 fade away. It's not gonna disappear, and there are
2 people who are very enthusiastic about making it
3 work, and from New Kent County's point of view,
4 we'd certainly like to see it work in New Kent
5 County.

6 I will offer, since they're not here today,
7 offer the assistance of our economic development
8 authority and our county administrator to help with
9 that, whether it's working with legislation,
10 whether it's -- we don't have a lot. It's a small
11 county, but anything we can do to help to promote
12 that, to help to keep horse racing certainly as a
13 prime industry in Virginia, which everybody here is
14 in favor of, and also to keep it in New Kent
15 County. We're all for that, and we will do what we
16 can to help out in that regard.

17 So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you. Commissioner Dawson.

19 MS. DAWSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Thank you, Commissioner Trout. I think that was a
21 very optimistic statement, and I share that view,
22 in contrast to our October 15th meeting, where we
23 were expressing disappointment.

24 I think I feel today that there is a lot of
25 interest in what Debbie Easter is doing and the

1 VEA.

2 I said at the time back on the 15th that I felt
3 that this was a very resilient industry in the
4 Commonwealth of Virginia, and I was sure they would
5 come up with some plans, which they have done, and
6 so I, too, will be following with great interest
7 their legislative proposals.

8 I also want to say, too, that I agree with
9 those who say they still are looking forward to
10 seeing some racing at Colonial Downs. I think that
11 would be very good for Virginia and would be very
12 good for your county and would be very good for the
13 racing industry in this Commonwealth.

14 So those are my thoughts at this point. I
15 pledge right now that I'll do everything that I can
16 to make that happen.

17 MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you, Commissioner. Mr.
18 Van Clief.

19 MR. VAN CLIEF: It seems, thankfully, that
20 we're all lining up on the same page here this
21 morning, so I'll just echo my fellow commissioners.

22 I think in my mind, certainly one of the most,
23 maybe the most positive concept I've seen in this
24 industry since I've been a commissioner is the
25 creation of the Virginia Equine Alliance. It is

1 certainly I think the most progressive and holds
2 the most potential. It's a powerful idea, and
3 speaking as a commissioner, I look forward to being
4 in step, to the greatest possible extent, with the
5 Alliance with regards to your legislative agenda,
6 your operating agenda.

7 Jeb, thanks for your words this morning.
8 Debbie, thank you for your efforts in pulling it
9 together, and I think it gives the industry some
10 much-needed organization, clout, and serious hope
11 for the future. That's probably not a strong
12 enough term. I think we're really in good hands.

13 At the same time, I also echo Carol's
14 sentiments. I would very much like to think that
15 we are going to see racing continue at Colonial
16 Downs. It needs to happen, and hopefully, we can
17 play a beneficial role in helping the comeback of
18 racing on a productive basis at Colonial Downs.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you. Commissioner Miller.

21 MR. MILLER: I think I've said my pieces.

22 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay. That leaves me -- and the
23 first thing I want to say is I want to thank the
24 representatives from, I know TVG couldn't make it,
25 but I want to thank them for doing business in the

1 Commonwealth. I want to thank you, EZHorseplay,
2 who is part of Colonial Downs, who is here all the
3 time. Thank you for coming.

4 But I especially want to thank representatives
5 from XpressBet and TwinSpires for coming. Thank
6 you all. Obviously, we know that we have further
7 discussions about how we're going to have this
8 compliance all play out, and we look forward to
9 those discussions with you.

10 We are in unchartered territories because we
11 don't have a limited licensee right now, but I have
12 to say that we appreciate your business. We want
13 your business. It's very important to have that
14 revenue flowing into the Commonwealth to help
15 promote, sustain and grow the native industry, so
16 we look forward to further discussions with you and
17 how we can build a strong relationship and move
18 forward to everybody's satisfaction. So I look
19 forward to that.

20 I'd also like to say, echo the comments I think
21 it's a great thing that we have put the VEA
22 together. I think it's great when we're trying to
23 all build a coalition together, and I think that's
24 a great, positive development.

25 I, too, would love to see racing at Colonial

1 Downs. I think Colonial Downs could play a great
2 role in the larger picture of trying to get this
3 industry moving in the right direction.

4 Again, as we all know, this was a really tough
5 year, and quite frankly, it was a lousy year, but
6 we are where we are, so hopefully, we can all work
7 together, maybe get some of the legislative
8 priorities addressed in this next session, all work
9 together towards a positive outcome there. I know
10 I and the Commission looks forward to working with
11 you all on those initiatives.

12 I think 2015 is a renaissance for us, and we
13 can hopefully all work together and move forward.
14 With that said, I'd love to say I enjoyed this
15 year, but I did not enjoy this year. I don't think
16 any of us enjoyed this year, but I do enjoy working
17 with each and every one of you, and I look forward
18 to working with you all in the future.

19 And with that, I'll just say happy holidays,
20 and I hope you all have a safe, safe new year.
21 With that, I will seek a motion for adjournment.

22 MR. VAN CLIEF: So moved.

23 MR. REYNOLDS: Do I hear a second?

24 MS. DAWSON: Second.

25 MR. REYNOLDS: All those in favor, say aye.

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NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

MR. REYNOLDS: This meeting is adjourned.
Thank you all very much.

NOTE: Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

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I, Sandra G. Spinner, hereby certify that having first been duly sworn, I was the Court Reporter at the meeting of the Virginia Racing Commission at the time of the hearing herein.

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Further, that to the best of my ability, the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings herein.

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Given under my hand this 31st day of December, 2014.

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SANDRA G. SPINNER

COURT REPORTER

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